

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 02972 131147Z

41

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 FEA-02 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

DOT-00 CG-00 INT-08 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 DRC-01 /101 W

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R 130857Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1818

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E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, ENGR, RP

SUBJ: CIVAIR:PETROLEUM: PAL FUEL REQUIREMENTS

REF: A. STATE 42456; B. MANILA 853; C. MANILA 735

SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NEW REQUEST FROM PHILIPPINE AIRLINES FOR ADDITIONAL FUEL ALLOCATIONS DURING MARCH. ADMINISTRATIVE LAPSES ON US SIDE ALSO CITED AS CAUSING UNNECESSARY DIFFICULTIES FOR AIRLINE. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY URGES ACTION BY DEPARTMENT AND FEO TO MEET ESSENTIAL PAL NEEDS. TIMELY FAVORABLE ACTION WILL AVOID PROBABLE HIGH-LEVEL GOP INTERVENTION AS OCCURRED IN FEBRUARY, WITH POSSIBILITY OF RECIPROCAL CURTAILMENT OF FUEL FOR US CARRIERS IN PHILIPPINES. END SUMMARY

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER DATED MARCH 11 FROM PAL EVP IGOA STATING FUEL SITUATION FOR MARCH AS FOLLOWS:QUOTE

STATION ALLOCATION REQUIREMENT SHORTFALL

SFO 283,000 USG 330,000 USG 47,000 USG

HNL 726,000 USG 936,000 USG 210,000 USG

GUAM 20,000 USG 490,000 USG 290,000 USG

WE HAVE GIVEN ABOVE FIGURES TO OUR WASHINGTON

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PAGE 02 MANILA 02972 131147Z

ATTORNEY AS BASIS OF OUR APPLICATION WITH THE FEO

FOR THE LATTER TO GRANT SPECIAL ALLOCATION TO MEET
OUR SHORTFALLS. MAY WE HAVE YOUR ASSISTANCE BY WAY
OF LETTING US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH RESPECT
TO THE STATUS OF OUR REQUEST WITH FEO. END QUOTE

2. IGOA LETTER ALSO MAKES FOLLOWING COMPLAINT
ABOUT ADMINISTRATION OF ADDITIONAL
ALLOCATIONS FOR FEBRUARY: QUOTE...WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE
SOME EXPLANATION FOR THE CONFUSION WITH RESPECT TO
SAN FRANCISCO APPARENTLY THE FEO SPECIAL ALLOCA-
TION WAS APPROVED PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 13TH WHEN THIS
INFORMATION WAS RELAYED...(TO US BY THE EMBASSY). YET
IT TOOK MORE THAN TWO WEEKS FOR CALTEX TO BE
INFORMED OF SUCH SPECIAL ALLOCATION, THUS PUTTING
PAL IN A VERY UNCERTAIN POSITION AS TO WHETHER OR
NOT WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH THE FLIGHT PLAN PREVIOUSLY
APPROVED FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY. IT WOULD SEEM
THAT THE FEO SHOULD SIMULTANEOUSLY NOTIFY ALL CON-
CERNED OF ALLOCATIONS, REGULAR OR SPECIAL, TO AVOID
ANY UNNECESSARY CONFUSION. END QUOTE

3. EMBASSY WISHES EMPHASIZE THAT CONTRARY TO STATE-
MENT IN REF A SPECIAL HOMECOMING TRAFFIC WAS ONLY ONE
ELEMENT IN JUSTIFICATION FOR ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS
FOR PAL. PRIMARY FACTOR WAS INTRODUCTION OF NEW
STRETCH DC-8 63 EQUIPMENT; IMPROVED TOURIST AND
BUSINESS CLIMATE IN PHILIPPINES HAS ALSO INCREASED
TRAFFIC ASIDE FROM HOMECOMING PROGRAM.

4. REF A PARA 4 SUGGESTED PAL MAY FREELY PURCHASE
BONDED FUEL STOCKS AT HONOLULU BUT DID NOT INDICATE
WHAT QUANTITIES MAY BE AVAILABLE. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND

BONDED STOCKS ARE NOW OR SOON WILL BE UNDER ALLOCATION
PROGRAM. REQUEST CLARIFICATION SO THAT WE CAN INFORM
PAL.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT FOR FEO TO ACT ON
PAL APPLICATION FOR MARCH WITHOUT DELAY AND TO ENSURE
THAT CHEVRON AND MOBILE ARE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED. TIMELY
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PAGE 03 MANILA 02972 131147Z

ALLOCATIONS WILL AVOID HIGH-LEVEL INVOLVEMENT OF GOP
OFFICIALS LATER IN MONTH WHEN SQUEEZE TIGHTENS, AS
OCCURRED WITH FONSEC ROMULT'S INTERVENTION IN FEBRUARY (REF B).
AMERICAN CARRIERS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE ADEQUATE FUEL
ALLOCATIONS AT MANILA TO PERMIT UNREDUCED OPERATIONS.
QUESTION OF RECIPROCAL CURTAILMENT OF FUEL DELIVERIES
HERE IS BOUND TO BE RAISED BY GOP IF PAL IS FORCED TO
CANCEL FLIGHTS BEYOND OCCASIONAL TURNAROUND OF FLIGHTS

AT HONOLULU WHICH COMPANY SEEMS ABLE TO MANAGE
ALTHOUGH IT IS UNHAPPY ABOUT ADDITIONAL COST INVOLVED.
SULLIVAN

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